

VOLLEYBALL



WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



HOUSE DONATION

Guardian

Volume 12, Issue 12 Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multinational Brigade (East) July 27, 2005



TRAINING WITH THE
KPC Engineers

MEDEVAC IN SERBIA



SOFTBALL



USAF SUPPORT TEAM

**Something to 'bear' in mind...
What is holding you back?**



Please Buckle Up.

This message brought to you by Task Force Falcon Command Information

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PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL



PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

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COVER PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DUFF MCFADDEN

Sgt. Edward Adams, Company A, 578th Engineer, operates an AN/PSS 12 mine detector, during recent training with members of the Kosovo Protection Corps conducted near Jezerc/Jezerce.

The best you can be

By Col. Barbara J. Poole

Every week at the Commanders Update Brief we see soldiers promoted – specialists to sergeants, lieutenants to captains, and majors to lieutenant colonels. As the commanding general gives the newly-promoted Soldiers the opportunity to address their fans, comments always center on past performance and those people who influenced that performance.

Ironically though, promotion is never based on past performance – it is not a reward. Promotion is based on anticipated future performance, performance at the higher grade.

So once these great Soldiers receive their new rank and proudly walk out of the Tactical Operations Center, who takes on the responsibility to coach and mentor these folks to be successful at their new rank?

Some will say it is the responsibility of the first-line supervisor, some say it is the responsibility of the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) or Officer Educational System.

Some say for our enlisted Soldiers, it is the Command Sergeant Major and for our officers, it is the Chief of Staff. But on whom should we really pin the rose?

First and foremost, the responsibility for professional and personal development of any Soldier, regardless of rank, rests with the Soldier.

The Army provides us with an abundance of tools for our continued growth – courses and schools, manuals and books, and a variety of people who can help shape us and our careers. And yes, those NCO's and officers superior to us should take on the task of coaching and mentoring us, but don't rely on them to come to you. You need to go to them. Ask them to guide you, to act as a coach or as a mentor, to show you the way.

Oftentimes, coaching and mentoring are used synonymously, when in fact, they are very different. A coach is someone who has had first-hand experience at doing the job you are doing. He or she has the knowledge of the processes as well as the tactics, techniques and procedures specific to your job that can enable you to achieve success. Typically, this will be your supervisor or someone in your chain of command.

On the other hand, a mentor is typically someone outside your chain of command who you can use as a sounding board to explore your needs, motivations, desires, skills, and even thought processes to assist you in your growth and development. For the best working relationship with a mentor, be prepared to bare your soul. He or she will ask you 'Why?' to better understand you and help guide you. A mentor will help identify options and related actions for you, some that you may not have even considered. A mentor can also be a champion for you, opening doors that may not normally be within your reach.

And yes, you can have both a coach (or coaches) and a mentor (or mentors). But don't think these folks will come knocking at your door. You must seek them out. Tell your supervisor you want and need his or her assistance as a coach. And then find yourself a mentor – someone who you respect, someone who you will want to be brutally honest with you.

You must take the initiative and display the drive to become the best you can be. Take responsibility for your personal growth and development. It's your career. Take charge of it! ■



Guardian

Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multinational Brigade (East)

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Quicktime

U.S. Army chooses site for UAV center

The U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., has been designated as the new Army Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Center of Excellence.

A Joint UAV Center of Excellence was also announced July 8 by the Defense Department and it will be established at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

"We realized that we needed an integrating hub for all these installations that have a UAV component," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, director of the Army Aviation Task Force located at the Pentagon. Currently, 12 Army installations have a UAV mission.

A total of 574 UAVs are now being used in the Afghanistan and Iraq theaters, Schloesser said. The vehicles are used for reconnaissance, surveillance and intelligence-gathering missions, as well as for the adjustment of artillery and mortar fire.

Types of UAVs include the hand-launched Raven, the larger Shadow, the Hunter UAV with a wingspan of 29 feet, and a single huge I-Gnat system with a wingspan of 48.7 feet.

The Army UAV center "will ensure

that all Army UAV activities are cohesive, coordinated and in support of current and future war-fighting requirements," Schloesser said.

"Because this is such a growing field, we don't see any resources leaving any ... installations," Schloesser said. "UAVs are so important to the way we are fighting now and the way we think we will fight, we expect to see growth at these installations."

But the designation of Fort Rucker as the new UAV Center of Excellence will see no noticeable change in the current structure or resources there, he said.

The U.S. Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker commander, Brig. Gen. Edward J. Sinclair, will serve as the chairman of the UAV Board of Directors.

"Each installation will provide a representative as a member of this board," Schloesser said. "That is the ultimate in partnering, and it is meant to take advantage of the capabilities and core functions that are occurring throughout these different installations so that we reduce redundancy." ★

Installations with a UAV mission and represented on the board include:

- Fort Huachuca, Ariz.
- Fort Eustis, Va.
- Fort Benning, Ga.
- Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.
- Redstone Arsenal, Ala.
- Fort Monmouth, N.J.
- Fort Knox, Ky.
- Fort Gordon, Ga.
- Fort Sill, Okla.
- Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
- Fort Lee, Va.
- Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

U.S. KFOR Soldiers need to turn in old NATO Ration Cards before Aug. 1st

U.S. Soldiers assigned to Multinational Brigade (East) need to be aware that new ration cards will be available soon. Please make sure to turn in your ration card to your chain of command no later than August 1.

Task Forces are currently working on personnel rosters to identify those who want a ration card. It is important that Soldiers review the information on the roster and validate the information if they want a new ration card.

Soldiers are not required to have a NATO Ration Card.

Ration cards in MNB(E) are required in order to purchase electronics

over 100 EUROS and cartons of cigarettes. Ration cards are also required to purchase beer, wine and liquors, but U.S. KFOR Soldiers are restricted from purchasing these items while on active duty status due to General Order Number 1.

The new card may be picked-up by the Task Forces S1s from the G1 on July 30, 2005. The Task Forces will then pass them out to the Soldiers who requested them. The Soldiers will be required to sign for the card and will not be issued a new one without the old ration card turned in or a report from the military police.

The Task Forces will have until July

30th to issue all the cards and return the un-issued cards, the accountability rosters and old cards into the G1 for accountability. It is important for Soldiers to know that if they realize they need a ration card, or were on leave during the process, they can still get a ration card issued.

There will still be the same requirement of turning in the old ration card, but Task Forces will be required to coordinate with the AST for an appointment.

The old ration cards will not be valid after July 30, the new cards will not be valid until August 1. ★

Mine Training with the KPC



Sgt. 1st Class Sid Karneke places a pair of flags to mark a simulated mine during recent training with members of the Kosovo Protection Corps near Jezerc/Jezerce.

The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) – Trupat Mbrojtëse Të Kosovës (TMK) – was officially constituted on Jan. 21, 2000. Formerly the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), they were converted to a civilian agency and charged with providing emergency response and reconstruction services to Kosovo.

Much like the Federal Emergency Management Administration in the United States, the KPC assists the Kosovo population during any natural or man-made disasters and aids in the rebuilding of Kosovo through work on public utilities and social projects.

So, when the prospect arose for three days of training between engineers of the U.S. Kosovo Forces (KFOR) and KPC members, both sides were eager for the opportunity.

The first two days involved bridge repairs near Jezerc/Jezerce, in the Ferizaj/Urosevac Municipality. Of the three bridge sites, one was re-decked, the second had its water flow corrected to prevent erosion, and the third was cleaned and an asphalt overlay placed upon it.

The final day of training provided invaluable guidance in mine detection

techniques.

“Today, we are performing construction site clearance,” said Sgt. 1st Class Sid Karneke, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Mine Action Center. “The sweeps are to ensure the safety of the area. If we detect any mines, we mark them, and then call in Explosive Ordnance to clear them.

“I think it was good training all the way around,” he said.

According to Capt. Ruzhdi Paloja, company commander, 3rd Brigade Engineers, KPC, this training was new for him and his 14 Soldiers.

“We cooperate on a lot of projects with KFOR and are working with US KFOR again to learn minesweeping techniques. We enjoy participating in these events and look forward to lots of projects and training.

“The best thing we learned today,” Paloja said, “is to control the area before we start training, because a lot of places here are mined and are not cleared yet. We have a unit demolition unit within TMK and they do the job. We’ve never worked with mine detectors before.”

For Master Sgt. Richard Gurbisz, a heavy equipment diesel mechanic,

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, A Company, 578th Engineer, Task Force Sidewinder, it was the opportunity for U.S. Soldiers to pass on their knowledge and experience.

“We’re showing them the correct way to use our mine detectors. It’s KFOR Standing Operating Procedure that, before any excavation or construction, we check the site not just for unexploded ordnance (UXO), but for bombs, as well. We’re also teaching them the correct way of minesweeping and the procedures to use if they find something, such as how to probe, identify, and then make a judgment call if it’s an UXO or a piece of metal in the ground,” said Gurbisz.

The challenge, he noted, is in the mines themselves, as many anti-personnel mines aren’t metal.

“Many of them are plastic, or some of the older ones are wooden. When you turn the sensitivity down to detect just that, you can find them. We showed them some methods, like when you receive a “warm” signal, how to figure out whether it’s a mine, or a car door that’s just buried there.

“Some of their methods were a

little unsound, as far as detection goes. If we, and ultimately they, can save lives in the future by doing it the correct way, it's well worth it," said Gurbicz.

A combat engineer since 1991, Gurbicz felt the training could have been a bit more realistic.

"If we were going out to an area like this, we usually use metal training mines which we would have pre-buried beforehand. If we had a site with loose sand, we would have buried anti-personnel mines with different devices on them to give them the full spectrum of what they could face," he said.

Usually, when U.S. engineers complete Military Occupational Specialty qualification, mine training involves the use of "booby traps." When you do something wrong, Gurbisz said, you'll know it.

"The people here already know what mines are. But this would give them a better perspective of what mines can do, by using booby traps or anti-handling devices. Even something as simple as trip wires, or a mousetrap underneath the training mine, where, when you pick it up, they go off.

"We don't want to make them EOD, but we want to have the gravity of the situation ingrained into them a little more," he added.

KPC Soldiers then learned another effective Army tool – the After-Action Review.

"We performed an actual Army After-Action Review with them, which is something they've never done before," Gurbisz said. "They were thrilled that we were actually involving them in the follow-up discussion. They've never had this situation before, where someone would ask them for their opinion in an AAR. To know that their opinion counted, that it could help improve the training next time, was something they really enjoyed.

"I'm looking forward to working more engineer missions with them.



They feel the same way with us, and indicated they appreciated any kind of training with us," he concluded. ✪

(Top) Sgt. Edward Adams demonstrates how, after turning the sensitivity settings lower, a "warm" signal may help decide whether you've located a mine, or simply a buried piece of metal.

(Middle) The AN/PSS 12 mine detector set.

(Bottom) Class is in session as Adams explains a finer point in the use of the AN/PSS 12 mine detector set.



No pets allowed



*General Order 1A, under Prohibited Activities, reads as follows:
“Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.”*

All Soldiers in Multinational Brigade (East) have been briefed on General Order 1, but what about 1A? After reading the July 13 issue of The Guardian, which advised soldiers to remember to wash their hands after petting stray animals, it became apparent that there is a wealth of misinformation concerning the issue of soldier/animal contact.

Hopefully, the information which follows will shed some light on the problem and help rectify the situation.

The Chief of Staff, Task Force Falcon has referenced Army Policy and indicated that “...there are no pets, mascots or caged animals authorized in Base Camps, Forward Operating Bases or any other MNB(E) occupied areas.”

General Order 1A, under Prohibited Activities, states as follows: “Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.”

The Task Force Surgeon further clarified the issue through the Task Force Medical Falcon Policy Letter #5, indicating in part that “Soldiers will not approach, pet, feed or water animals. The only exception is the Veterinary Detachment, which will only have contact with animals as part of their official duty.”

The following situation is taken from a memorandum written by Brig. Gen. Russell Kilpatrick, command surgeon in the Central Command Area of

Responsibility (AOR). A recent event in the AOR underscored the importance of the often ignored section of General Order 1A.

A group of US civilian contract employees working for the Army adopted a stray dog as a pet. On Jan. 19, the dog bit one of them, but the victim didn't tell anyone. By Jan. 22, the dog had bitten 13 others. The dog was placed in quarantine and subsequently died the next day. The brain was submitted to Vet Lab Europe in Germany for rabies testing.

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis was initiated on the 14 exposed contractors on Jan. 23. When a Jan. 25 test result indicated the dog was positive for rabies, the treatment group grew to include other exposed individuals. It now included 32 people with the expectation it would grow to 50 or more.

The upside: Post-exposure prophylaxis is 100 percent effective at preventing rabies if administered in time.

The downside: At least 32 people are undergoing post-exposure prophylaxis. This begins with 10ml rabies immune globulin, half injected in the bite wound, the other half intramuscularly. It is followed by rabies vaccination on days zero, three, seven, 14 & 28. The direct cost is over \$550 each, with the additional costs of lost man hours, available resource reallocation and mission distraction.

Additionally, any exposed individual

who, for whatever reason, does not identify himself and receive treatment, is at very high risk. Once rabies symptoms develop, death is imminent.

Closer to home, many of the dog bite incidents in MNB(E) are related to feeding stray dogs. Last week, in fact, a patient came to sick call for a dog bite that occurred during a hand-feeding incident. The dog was not being aggressive toward the patient, he apparently just wanted to make sure he got his fair share of the food. In the process, the patient was bitten on the hand. Because the dog was out in the local population and ownership was uncertain, Task Force veterinary staff were unable to either quarantine the dog or evaluate it for rabies.

As of now, the patient has received the rabies immune globulin (\$580) and three vaccinations (\$252) with two more to go (\$168). Total cost to the taxpayer (that is you), not including manpower and other resources, \$1,000.

It is cheaper for the Task Force, safer for the patient and directed by standing operating procedures to capture and euthanize the animal and submit the brain for testing. Consider that consequence to the animal just because you “wanted to feed it.”

It would be just plain stupid to try to pet a “mean” dog or one that is salivat-

Animals continued on page 23

For the thrill of a game

So, the National Hockey League (NHL) cancelled its 2004-2005 season. Hockey has an addictive thrill, the checking, the sport, the spirit of getting you and your 10 best friends together to cheer on your team.

In the meantime, there is volleyball in Kosovo.



Spc. Brian Carman sets up for a spike during a game in South Town.

Many troops on Camp Bondsteel enjoy the togetherness of playing volleyball. If they are not playing, they are sure to cheer on the team of their choice in the sand courts in South Town of Camp Bondsteel.

"I play for the Secret Squirrels," said Spc. James P. Heaton, a driver for the Deputy Commander for Civil Military Operations, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Task Force Falcon. "The term 'Secret Squirrel' is used to describe a top secret mission without giving away any pertinent details. My team is highly classified and if I told you anymore then, well you know how that goes," he said.

"The name of my team is 11 to 6," said Spc. Catie Beck, Broadcast Journalist, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Task Force Falcon. "When we played one of the European teams, we asked what the score was and they would always say 11 - 6, so it became our nickname," she said.

Whatever the team, it seems like all the players get a turn at flexing their competitive muscle at all positions during a game.

"There really aren't any specific positions on the court while playing," said Heaton. "If I had to choose one, I would say that I am a blocker and spiker and take the position as captain," he said.

"All the members of my team play every spot, but if we do switch, I play back row, or setter," said Beck.

The experience level of sand volleyball doesn't matter. Soldiers are able to boost their confidence and advance the skill level of anyone willing to give a whole-hearted try at being a part of a team.

"I have been playing volleyball since I was about eight," said Heaton. "I had a big yard and we would set these big poles in the ground and buy a regulation net and play from spring to fall every year," he said.

"I have played volleyball and have been active since about the fourth grade," said Beck. "My mom was the physical education teacher, so I had my own personal coach," she said.

The sand courts have been a popular location for the games even before the KFOR 6B rotation arrived.

"I have been playing volleyball here on CBS since the start of the 6A rotation," said Heaton.

"I have been playing volleyball on Camp Bondsteel since the first 6B volleyball tournament," said Beck.

Regardless of level of expertise at volleyball, everyone seems to be able to add some spike to their normal exercise routine.

"I like to play volleyball because it is a great way to get out and get some exercise," said Heaton. "It also gets your mind off anything that may be going on that you need a break from," he said.

"I like playing because it is a real team

sport, everyone has to work together," said Beck. "Also, it usually doesn't get too heated or overly-competitive so it is fun for those, like me, who aren't the best player on the court," she said.

It doesn't take much to be a part of a team because most members are willing to accept an enthusiastic player any day. Most teams are willing to practice together when teammates are available, or take on a player when needed.

"We usually work together during tournaments, but sometimes we all get together on the weekend, or when we are free and play," said Heaton.

"My team tries to practice almost everyday, but my schedule doesn't allow me to join them very often," said Beck.

When playing volleyball, everyone is able to have fun, regardless if they win or lose.

"We all like to win and have a very competitive edge, but we also like to have fun too," said Heaton.

"It really isn't about winning or losing, it's about how you played," said Beck. "If we played sloppy, but still won, we don't feel so great about ourselves. If we played a really great team and did our best, there is nothing to be ashamed of in that," she said.

Whether it is a victory or loss, most Soldiers find it a great morale booster to play or watch the game.

"For those who participate, I

Volleyball continued on page 23

What makes the Army: Soldiers

While conducting a search in an abandoned building near Pozaranje/Pozaranja, Sgt Brian Carpenter (left) and Cpl. Matthew Rank (right), look through an entrance to determine if the building is holding contraband. (Opposite page) Before conducting a search, Cpl. Matthew Rank conducts an operational check of a magnetic wand.



Name: Matthew T. Rank

Age: 23

MOS: 19D – Cavalry Scout

Hobbies: Playing guitar and drums, football and baseball

Hometown: Dayton, Ohio

Unit: Company D, 1-140th

Infantry (Team Vanguard)

Rank: Cpl.

Why did you join the Army National Guard?

I joined the Guard on August 4, 1999, because I wanted to be in the Army and go to college at the same time. In high school I went to all the recruiters, but the National Guard recruiter had me sold because he told me I could

go to school and be in the Army with the Guard. I hadn't thought about the Guard before, but he told me I could do both and I wanted to do both, so I joined. I have always wanted to be in the Army. I joined when I was 17 and left for basic training less than a week after I graduated high school.

What is your job in Team Vanguard?

I have been just about everything from a regular "joe" to a squad leader since I've been here. Right now I'm a team leader and whatever the squad leader wants done I make sure gets done. That can range from PT to making sure the vehicles get maintained.

What is a day in the life of Cpl. Rank like, here in Kosovo?

Well, depending on when the mission is, I wake up any where from 6 to 10 a.m. and when we go out on patrol we get to talk to different people. My company has a large area to cover, and sometimes we get to work with other nationalities. It's kind of interesting because we're working with other nationalities. Sometimes a couple of our squads will get the chance to go on patrol with them, but what we do here is more like a mix between a cavalry scout and an MP. You wake up and do your mission; you do whatever you got to do.

With all the different things you've done in your career, what has been the

highlight?

One of the biggest things for me is working with people. There are all kinds of people in the world and so not only do you find yourself working with people from the United States, but you work with people from other countries and other cultures as well. I have worked with all types of people and all types of personalities.

What is your civilian job back home?

I worked while attending school as a bartender part-time and then worked during the summer in construction. Primarily, I was a student at Miami University in Ohio. Yes, that is Miami University in Ohio not University of Miami in Florida! Miami was a university in Ohio before Florida was a state. Everyone gets that mixed up. I have completed three and a half years there with a year and a half left.

What are your plans after you return home from Kosovo?

I am going to try the music thing for a little bit, but then eventually I am going to school for political science and history and run for an elected office. It will depend on if the time is right and on the area. My goal is to start out as a representative by running for an office in the state legislature. It just depends on what is going on there and who is getting out and who is running in my area.



How has the Army helped you with your plans for a career?

One of the biggest things is that I have learned you can't be a good leader unless you have been a good follower. Being enlisted I have learned to say "Roger sir!" I have also learned about different styles of leadership and listening to what people think is right or wrong. That way you get a better feel on how to develop your own leadership style. It is not just for the military, but also for your future career.

What words of wisdom would you offer to someone facing a deployment here in Kosovo?

There are a lot of things I would offer, but the most important is to learn from the current rotation. Learn as much as you can and don't try to reinvent the wheel. It's ok to add to what's being done, but don't take away. I would also say be patient because all you have is time, that's what I keep telling my guys. It is good if you can look back at your time here and say "Yes, I actually did something worthwhile there." ✦



Cross boundary *MEDEVAC*

Story by Spc. Alicia Dill

The reporters and photographers crowded each other, everyone trying to get the perfect shot. Behind the red tape, used for restricting the media, it was busy but for good reason. This was big news. U.S. Kosovo Forces (KFOR) Soldiers had crossed the Administrative Boundary Line and were side by side with the Serbian military, conducting a medical evacuation exercise.

Coordination between the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) of Multinational Brigade (East) and the Serbian Army, (VSCG) made this event possible, complete with moulaged patients, Serbian ambulances and a KFOR medical evacuation helicopter.

"We did this training to prepare our Soldiers in the event of an actual acci-

dent that would require evacuation of Soldiers that were seriously injured in an accident or incident," said Major Andrew Rosso, Joint Implementation Commission, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Falcon. "There are unique protocols that have to be followed."

Exercising the medical evacuation was a first for the combined efforts of the KFOR Soldiers and the VSCG.

"This event or policy giving us permission to fly in the air safety zone (controlled by the VSCG) was established in 2001 based on the Tactical Operations Procedures Agreement and this is the first time we have been able to practice it," said Rosso.

Monitoring and observing the mili-

tary technical agreement between the two forces is one of the responsibilities of the JIC team. It was one reason to have the training exercise, said Rosso.

Besides this event, the JIC team conducts other activities with the VSCG.

"Some of the regular activities with Multinational Brigade (East) and KFOR conducted with the army of Serbia is synchronized patrols. Which is where we link up at the ABL with patrols from army of Serbia," said Rosso. "We are in the area looking for illegal smugglers and extremist activity and to keep the area peaceful."

Preparing for the exercise included two rehearsals. The first was held at Camp Monteith and provided an opportunity to practice the KFOR part



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DUFF MCFADDEN



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DUFF MCFADDEN



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DUFF MCFADDEN

of the training, including air support from the MEDEVAC helicopters and Apache gun ships. Two days prior to the exercise, a second rehearsal was held in Serbia without helicopters, to finalize the coordination between KFOR and the VSCG.

"The rehearsal gave us an opportunity to practice communication back to headquarters and gave Serbia and Montenegro forces an opportunity to practice their actions," said Rosso.

Training on the care of injured Soldiers is something both forces view as an important part of their missions.

"We train daily for the care of injured people. Training is a daily occurrence, here in the 78th Motorized Brigade," said Dr. (Lt.) Bojan Jova-

novic, 78th Motorized Brigade, part of the VSCG. "The difference between our care and American is minimal but the main difference is the technology that Americans deal with and we deal with."

The Serbian doctor was the medic in charge of the exercise after the Serbian ambulance team arrived on scene. Jovanovic, a military doctor for four years, said, "Here in this area, we are all achieving the same tasks and the point of the exercise was the care of the injured personnel, and also working with the differences between languages and cultures. "There shouldn't be a difference in care and I think we showed whoever is injured from either side will be taken well care of medically."

(Top) Col. Clay S. Bradfield fields a question from the gathered media during the recent Operation Hippocrates exercise in Serbia. The exercise was established as a medical evacuation exercise involving movement of Multi-National Brigade (East) helicopters across the Administrative Boundary Line into the Air and Ground Safety Zones.

(Center) U.S. and Serbian medics prepare to load a stretcher onto a nearby ambulance, following a simulated accident during Operation Hippocrates in Serbia.

(Bottom) Col. Branislav Pavic, Chief Team for Cooperation w/KFOR Ground Force, Serbian Army, reinforces a point during the walk-through portion of Operation Hippocrates. (Large photo) A KFOR Soldier assists a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a landing.

LARGE PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

A full-page photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform standing guard on a stone path. The soldier is holding a rifle and looking towards the camera. The background features a white building with a stone base and lush green trees.

Standing Guard

Story and photos by Spc. Lynette Hoke

Sometimes standing guard isn't the most glamorous job in the world. Hours and days will go by and absolutely no incidents will occur.

When the time seems to tick by so slowly, even the grass grows faster than the nearing of the end of your shift. One has to keep in mind the greater reason that standing guard is necessary.

Standing guard will prevent injury, danger, exposure or attack to something or someone. A guard can be a defense and protection for a site or high priority items.

Remember your Soldier skills and take pride if and when you are Standing Guard.

Spc. Kyle Boiling, B Company, 1-635th Armor, Task Force Tornado, stands guard on the backside of the church in Zhiti/Zitinje.

Anyone who has visited a grave site to pay their respects to the deceased knows what sentimental value the condition of the cemetery means. Keeping the grass trimmed, the gravestones upright is viewed as a minimal standard in most countries. In the U.S. Kosovo Forces (KFOR) area of responsibility, stands a church in need of some careful watching. Task Force Tornado Soldiers are tasked to keep an extra eye on a little church and cemetery on the outskirts of Zhiti/Zitinja. Every day, all day, there are Soldiers watching the church and the surrounding area.

"It is important to patrol this area to provide a safe and secure environment for the people that want to come and pay their respects to relatives, or visit the site," said Spc. John E. Blum, infantryman, B Company, 1-635th Armor.

The main priority is to guard the area and to keep unwanted people from coming to destroy or vandalize the church and cemetery.

"Our purpose here is to ensure that the site is not being messed with," said Sgt. Theodore T. Hopkins, mechanized infantryman, B Company, 1-635th Armor. Each of the Soldiers on the site has a different job, but each is important in securing the site.

"When my squad and I are assigned to the site, my job is the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the site," said Hopkins. "I basically make sure that no one enters the compound without authorization, no one messes with the gravestones, no one does any vandalism and make sure the site stays under our control," he said.

Staying alert, being on watch and being fully aware of all the activities going on around the site are important.

"We are here to make sure the church stays well protected; I am always on the look out," said Blum.

Whether on foot, or from a bird's-eye view, Soldiers are persistent in maintaining their record of minimal incidents at the church and cemetery.

"I stay in the tower, I keep constant watch around the perimeter make sure

no one tries to cross the wire," said Kyle W. Boiling, B Company, 1-635th Armor, Task Force Tornado.

"We are basically out in the open, as far as seeing anyone coming during the day, we can see them coming from miles around," said Hopkins.

When events, or unusual situations do occur, the Soldiers are trained to maintain order. How they approach people that want to have access to the site and how they react to extraordinary events in the perimeter is important in maintaining a neutral presence in the area.



The door on the church is damaged from the violence it has encountered in the past. Soldiers hope their presence will deter future vandalism.

"So far, my duties have been routine," said Hopkins. "A couple of times we have heard shots fired, not in this area, but in a neighboring town. If we hear unusual noises like that, we call it in so another patrol can come and investigate it."

The troops are not meant to keep the area off limits and are not here to patrol the adjacent town, but are there just to protect the church and cemetery.

"If anyone is going to come up, they are going to come up to the front gate and that is what we look for," said Hopkins.

"We check their identification, call back to headquarters and obtain authorization, and we escort them through the site."

The Soldiers are aware of the locals in the adjacent town. They also have a heightened awareness of the sensitive nature of those visiting persons buried in the cemetery.

"If locals come in, we are more than likely expecting it," said Hopkins. "Most of the people from the town don't have any relatives at this cemetery, or the church is not of their religion, so they will not have any interest in the church," he said.

"We are just trying to protect the church from any wrong doings that might occur, we don't want anything to happen to the church," said Boiling.

Any assignment or task can have its lulls or down points. However, the Soldiers find interesting ways to engage themselves to learn more about their surrounding environment.

"When things are at a lull, I like to talk to our interpreter," said Boiling. "He has a lot of useful information about what has been going on here and how stuff goes. It is really interesting to have another person's perspective on what we are doing here," he said.

Some of the Soldiers may read a book or engage themselves in other activities that are beneficial towards their career, professional, cultural educational growth.

"I've seen a lot of children curious about what we are doing," said Blum. "I enjoy talking to them as well; most of them have a really good grasp of English."

Overall, the Soldiers are just doing their jobs as citizen-Soldiers. The mission priority for Soldiers assigned to guarding the church is to maintain a positive relationship with the public and establish a safe living environment for all the citizens of Kosovo.

"Our mission here is to keep unwarranted people out of the site," said Hopkins.

"We are not making it a hands-off site for anybody. Due to the sensitive nature of the site, we are needed here until deemed otherwise unnecessary," he said.

Airmen provide contracting services in Kosovo

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Carla Williams



From left: Maj. Jeffrey Heilman, Kosovo Forces Theater Head of Contracts, Staff Sergeant Saleem Khan, contract officer and Master Sgt. Terry Warhouski, Regional Allied contracts in the Kosovo Area of Responsibility.

Kosovo Forces' (KFOR) food, water, surveillance and airport ground handling service – Where do some of these services come from? Who is responsible for ensuring these services are continued?

Three Airmen, Maj. Jeffrey Hei-

lman, Master Sgt. Terry Wirhouski and Staff Sgt. Saleem Khan, ensure these services are continuously being met in the Kosovo Area of Responsibility (AOR) through contracts.

Heilman, KFOR Theater Head of Contracts, is responsible for all

regional contracting officers.

"I manage and ensure all the regional contracting officers in the Kosovo Area of Responsibility are taking care of their assigned area of responsibilities and are also being personally taken care of," said Heil-



Contracting Officer, review a contract on-line at "Film City," near Pristina. The Airmen are responsible for

man.

Heilman, who has been serving in the Air Force for 15 years, is also the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing Detachment commander.

"I am responsible for all Airmen in the Kosovo AOR," explained the

commander. "If they [Airmen] have a problem, I'm here for them."

Heilman loved Kosovo so much, it's his second time being deployed here.

"On my second deployment to Kosovo, I will take away from here

the experiences of being a commander, an increased appreciation of other U.S. services and nations working together and the ability to work with multinational contingency," he said.

Wirhouski, who is from Aviano Air Base, Italy, is the Regional Allied Contracting officer at KFOR.

"I'm responsible for all North Atlantic Treaty Organizations contracts in Kosovo, supporting 39 contributing nations."

The contracting officer said she also loves working here at Film City.

"I'm happy to be here. It's a safe, friendly working environment," she said. "I also think it's interesting to see how other nations do business and how they integrate their different styles."

Khan, who has been serving in the Air Force for eight years, is a contract officer and the Deputy Chief of the Joint Contracting Center at the Army's Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. It's also his first deployment.

"I'm excited being in Kosovo because, it's my first deployment here, and I'm excited to help people, as I love helping people – and we're [Americans] giving something back to the community," he said.

Currently stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., Khan is the only Air Force contracting officer for all Army contracts at Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith. Some of his contract responsibilities include security, surveillance and airport ground handling services.

Kahn said he will take away some great experiences from Kosovo.

"I am going to take away learning about different cultures and different services from different countries and learning how to work in a joint-service environment," he said.

The three Airmen are successfully completing their mission in Kosovo as they continue to serve the forces here.

Blerta's Smile

Two contractors return to Kosovo to help a Kosovo family find a home.



Above civilian contractors (left) Jayme C. Harris and Charlene Hall (right) return to Kosovo to fulfill a promise made to a local Kosovo family to find them a home.

Both are contractors who served here at Camp Bondsteel, and now work with Theodor Wille Intertrade/ Servco and live in Kuwait.

(Right) Blerta and her mother (center) pose for a photo with Hall and Harris in the families old apartment prior to moving into their new home.

Some people wonder why I want to help a family in Kosovo. They say that I should worry more about starving people in America. Well, I do care about starving people in America and I do what I can to support certain charities in America.

I witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of the conflict in the Balkans. I worked as a Department of Defense Contractor in Kosovo from 2002-2003. I've learned a lot from my experiences during that time.

With an estimated 57 percent unemployment rate, most of the people live in poverty. I've seen countless children begging for spare change and food. At times, it would even get annoying. One day, I said a prayer for me not to be so annoyed with the uneducated and begging people in that area.

I was eating dinner at a local restaurant one night when a man came by our table passing out books about the fighting and the consequences the people faced over it. I asked him how much he wanted for the book and he replied "nothing," he said that he wanted us to remember the poor and homeless and that when they asked for money, to spare some change to them.

After I read the book, my heart changed for the people of Kosovo. I read stories and saw pictures of women who had to walk across the blood of their husband's decapitated bodies with their children to flee to safety and to the nearest refugee camps. I saw the pictures of

crying children. I saw the empty lifeless stares of women who lost, not just their husbands, but life as they knew it.

On another occasion I was in town, upon stepping out of my taxi, I noticed a beautiful young girl with the most gorgeous eyes, smiling like she was the happiest little girl on earth. As soon as I got out of the taxi, she wrapped her arms around me and gave me a great big hug. Again, my heart went out. I gave her some money and would often bring her gifts. For some reason, this girl really touched my heart. I wanted to know more about her, more about her family.

Blerta, I was told was her name. I called her my Albanian Princess. I managed to find out where she lived and arranged a meeting with her and her family with an interpreter.

I learned that they lost their home due to the conflict and fighting in Kosovo.

I wanted to do more for the family, not just give spare change. No one in the family including Blerta spoke English. When I first saw the house, I immediately froze. This was a house that I passed many times. I had thought for sure that no one lived in this area. The building looked worse than condemned.

The family was very friendly to me. Blerta's mother made me feel right at home. The only problem...this really wasn't a home. There was no running water, no heat, none of the comforts of a regular home. Basically, the layout was two rooms that a family of four called

home. I noticed that all of the gifts that I had given Blerta were in the family display case. It seemed to be the only items the family had of value. It was explained to me by the interpreter that the family had lost their home during the fighting and was forced to live in this apartment. The father could not find a job and the mother worked at a nearby bread factory earning approximately 100 Euros a month for the family to survive on. The interpreter also told me the family had lost a set of newborn twins due to an unknown illness during the conflict.

I still couldn't get over Blerta's smile.





She really seemed like the happiest girl on earth despite losing her home and siblings during the conflict. She was young when it happened, but still, I thought... she must get cold, must get hungry and must want her own bed. Does she ever get sad? I hope not. It's hard for me to sleep sometimes knowing that they are cold and not knowing if they have enough food.

Maybe I can't help everyone or buy everyone a house, But I could help organize and help this family find a permanent home.

With the assistance of TWI/Servco

Solutions, finances were raised to purchase a home for this family as well as all the furnishings.

When someone comes into your life and touches your heart the way they have touched mine, I feel that it was for a reason. If I can be of any assistance in making their lives a little brighter, why not? I asked myself.

Who knows why it happened that way for me. It reminds me of something I read in the Bible before... it says something to the fact: when you passed by the hungry, why didn't you feed them? Why didn't you visit the sick? Why didn't you

visit the imprisoned? Why didn't you help the homeless? The Bible refers to those people as a reflection of Jesus himself.

These people deserve the assistance of others just like any other human being on this Earth. We are all one creation. No one person is better or more deserving than the other.

Though I may have left Kosovo to serve in Kuwait with TWI/Servco, my heart and commitment to the people of Kosovo is still here.

If anything... I want to make sure that Blerta keeps smiling! ✱

American Heritage

Women in the Military

Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, Former AAFES Commander and Marilyn Iverson, Chief Operating Officer, present a Hero Award to AAFES associate Jason McRay in recognition for service above and beyond the call of duty while he was voluntarily deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDD ANSTEY

A battle buddy, by any definition, is a fellow Soldier that will stand by you through life and limb. Soldiers have taken their lives into their own hands, never leaving their fallen peers.

These are the stories often omitted by the news; the stories of Soldiers that make a U-turn into the face of danger, when their partners are in trouble, or stray behind.

A pilot loses both legs to a rocket propelled grenade during a routine flight to pick up troops. A Soldier is awarded a Silver Star after a deadly exchange of fire that results in many dead insurgents.

These are only a couple stories from the same Soldiers a few members of Congress could be trying to keep out of combat Military Occupation Specialties (MOS), according to article on women in the military by Stars and Stripes printed on May 19th, 2005.

Recently, the Army's highest-ranking female officer, Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, retired after 31 years of military service, according to a news release from the Army & Air Force Exchange Services, Dallas, Texas.

She was responsible for starting and maintaining Post Exchanges at thousands of bases around the world. Because of her position, Soldiers were able to purchase simple luxury and personal items that would have taken weeks to months

to receive in care packages.

Frost joined the Army in 1974. The choice to join the Army came from her perception of the dedication she saw in US Army Soldiers.

"My professional association had always been with the Army," said Frost. "I admired the commitment of the Soldiers and officers I knew, and felt it would be an honor to serve alongside people who were so dedicated to our nation." "Besides," she said, "green is my best color."

Frost had the ability and determination to join any branch of service. However, she gained her education through a U.S. Marine Corps scholarship and still chose the Army.

"Actually, I went to college on a Marine Corps scholarship," said Frost. "Once, when I was telling a joint group this, a Marine asked 'Why didn't you join the Marine Corps?' My response to him was 'Because they were 'looking for a few good men.'"

"But seriously, as the Army was recruiting more and more women after the end of the draft, they wanted to have female leaders as role models and therefore, there was a good opportunity in the Army for women," she said.

Even at Camp Bondsteel, there are many high-ranking female leaders who strive to influence the lives of their Sol-

diers. For example, 1st Sgt. Evarista Sappa, the Task Force MED 1st Sgt. is driven by the desire to excel and decided the challenge of an active duty enlistment would push her to that excellence.

"I chose the Army because it offered the best overall chance for me to achieve my professional goals," said Sappa.

Both women found military service to be an outlet they were able to succeed in. Because women serving the military was still a concept that was still fairly new, the women had to prove that they could accomplish the job as well as their male counterparts.

"As women proved themselves to be competent, and as opportunities expanded for us into many different branches, I had to demonstrate that I was easily as good as my male counterparts," said Frost. "I would say shame on any officer who is not dedicated to being the absolute best he or she can be everyday," she said.

"I have always tried to prove to other people, that working together, no matter what gender, we will accomplish any mission," said Sappa. "Never let anything or anybody take away what is in your heart, especially if you have worked hard to earn it. Never be afraid of who you are," she said.

Hardships were a part of both Soldier's experience in the military.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST SGT. EVARISTA SAPPA

1st Sgt. Evarista Sappa, Task Force MED 1st Sgt., takes a moment to get a photo with Command Sgt. Major of the Army Reserves Michelle Jones, when she visited Camp Bondsteel earlier this year. Jones is the first female to hold the CSM of the Army Reserves position.

"I would never say I experienced hardships in the Army," said Frost. "There were challenges surely, but men also face challenges. When I came into the Army, there were so few women that many in the Army really didn't know what to expect from us. I always joke, because their expectations were low, it was easy to excel early in my career," she said.

"Other females in the military may enjoy the stereotype, but they make it harder for the people to see them as a Soldier first," said Sappa.

Like their male counterparts, females

have to make choices and sacrifices to succeed in their military career.

"I often had to make tough choices to be successful in the Army," said Frost. "I like to tell women who want a career in the Army that we can't have it all, we have to choose and often sacrifice something. The good news is that today, women can make a choice and that was not always available to them," she said.

"I would recommend that you wait and get everything you want from your career before you start your family," said Sappa. "Women are now at the top of

the list for the School for Medicine," she said.

When everything is said and done, women in the military can meet and exceed the standard when perseverance kicks in.

"My Army experience has been so good, I, of course, would encourage other women to choose the Army as a career," said Frost. "Only if they are willing to commit their energy and loyalty to the Army, to maintain their competence and constantly look for ways to improve, to

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***The goal
is to achieve a
"culture change"
from vision correction
for some Soldiers,
to eye protection
for all Soldiers.***

Spc. Diego Rosales, a member of C Company, 1-160th Infantry, wears a pair of issued protective eyewear on a recent patrol. Rosales likes the glasses because they keep the dust out of his eyes and likes having them on during weapons firing.

Currently at Fort Benning, Ga. about 400 Infantry trainees and cadre are testing several different types of combat eye protection that might eventually be issued to all Soldiers.

Col. Chuck Adams, the senior optometry consultant for the Army's Office of the Surgeon General, said the goal is to achieve a "culture change" from vision correction for some Soldiers, to eye protection for all Soldiers.

"We're talking about putting eyewear on half a million Soldiers," Adams said. "And it's not so much about which product we choose, but the training. Combat eye protection is embraced for deployed Soldiers. We need to embrace it for all Soldiers."

Maj. John T. Nichols from Marion, Ala. and a member of the 75th Combat Support Hospital, based in Tuscaloosa, Ala., is serving here with Task Force Med.

Among other duties, Nichols serves his fellow peacekeepers as the Task Force's Optometrist.

"Usually, I get a call to go to the emergency room a couple of times a week to remove foreign objects from Soldiers eyes. They come in with little pieces of rock, sticks and metal in their eye or they have an eye infection," said Nichols.

As part of the Military Combat Eye Protection Program, the Army is hoping the Soldiers and cadre will have some

good feedback on three sets of spectacles that are currently being tested.

Eye injuries hit the radar in the early 1970's. In the following years, the Army researched and developed spectacles and goggles designed to combat a laser threat by blocking certain wavelengths. That is where the Army's current offerings, with their multiple lenses, came in. But the eyewear adopted in 1994 and issued in 1998 didn't pass muster with Soldiers.

The second generation items, intended to provide spectacles and goggles that would share lenses, provide ballistic protection and support prescription lenses, was unsuccessful.

The Army did not design a frame that was acceptable to Soldiers, protection was important, but not a motivating factor. The old stereotypical saying "BCG", short for "birth control glasses," was in full effect. For the Soldier, if it doesn't look like an commercial frame and if it doesn't look cool, the Soldier has a tendency not to wear them.

So the Army entered the formal contracting process with several commercial vendors and also received unsolicited proposals.

The Army evaluates the eyewear for industry safety standards and ballistic fragmentation protection, then ranks the products and places them on an authorized protective eyewear list.

Individual commanders can select eyewear for their unit from that list.

But eye injuries aren't limited to combat operations. Soldiers face many potential hazards in their day-to-day activities.

Eye injuries could occur during an accident on a range, with expended brass cases ejecting from firing weapons or being poked in the eye by a branch of a tree during land navigation or on a patrol in a wooded area.

"I estimate about 10 percent of the patients that we see here at Camp Bondsteel are eye-related," said Nichols.

"Not only does protective eyewear help stop foreign debris, but it also helps block pollen from getting into the eye. Pollen sometimes contributes to eye infections," he said.

"I think combat eye protection is a great idea, Nichols said.

"We want to protect the Soldiers' vision," Adams said, "and one of the ways to do that is by issuing combat eye protection to every Soldier. We want to instill the feeling that something's missing when they walk outside without eyewear."

Training as they fight means Soldiers could be issued combat eye protection, a frame of choice and protective mask inserts for those Soldiers needing corrective lenses, and combat eye protection for those without a prescription need. ★

Women continued from page 21

learn how to communicate with men (they don't always receive on the female frequency), and to wear moral courage as a badge of honor," she said.

"Integrity is the Army Value that could be applied to my career," said Sappa. "Every Soldier should go by the rule 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' treat everyone with dignity and respect," she said.

Dignity and respect hasn't always been returned, she noted.

"Women must stand up for themselves, look for ways to be a member of the team, and maintain a sense of humor," said Frost. "In a discussion once, a Navy Admiral asked me how I felt about some issue regarding women. I responded, 'I don't know, Sir, I've never carried the banner for women in the military.' He replied, 'Oh, yes you have, by not carrying it as a chip on your shoulder.'"

"So I would not encourage women to stay in the Army if they have a chip on their shoulder. Service in the Army is not about you, it's about the mission, those you lead, and the security of the nation. There's not enough time for indulgent self interest," she said.

"Look at the example of Command Sgt. Major Michelle Jones at the Pentagon representing the Army Reserves," said Sappa. "She is not there as a token, she is there because she has earned it," she said.

Having mentors and role models is a step up on the ladder of success for both women. A mentor, regardless of sex, is a person that is able to guide and counsel someone through personal and professional circumstances.

"I would also advise them to seek mentors who will help them develop as leaders, not only female mentors, but probably more important, male ones," said Frost. "We don't just want to be the best women officers or noncommissioned officers we want to be, we must be simple, the best at doing our jobs," she said.

"My mother was a role model because she has always been there for me and even for my son, since I have been a single mother for a long time," said Sappa. "She showed the Army value of commitment," she said.

Women in the Army are leaps and bounds beyond the expectation that was set for them when they were admitted to the military branches years ago.

If a Soldier is getting picked for medical evacuation purposes, is changing a vehicle's transmission, or submitting paperwork for an award, it doesn't matter what gender they are, as long as the job is getting done to the best of their ability. These are the Soldiers of the United States Army.

Volleyball continued from page 9

think that the morale is great," said Heaton. "If you want to build more morale, I feel you need to give the Soldiers some incentive. Maybe like, wearing civilian clothes to play volleyball in," he said.

"It gives the athletes an outlet for their desire to compete and it provides entertainment for the onlookers," said Beck.

The Morale Welfare and Recreational (MWR) Center has done a good job keeping the volleyball tournaments a frequent activity. The teams that want to play are recommended to sign up by the deadline.

"The teams need to sign up on time, so MWR doesn't have to keep restructuring the schedule all the time," said Heaton. "More organized tournaments would be nice too," he said.

"I think MWR does a great job of putting it together and making sure there are knowledgeable referees," said Beck. "I really appreciate all their hard work," she said.

A little fun in the sun can't compare to the sandy beaches of home, but it does provide something to take minds off a long deployment in Kosovo.

"We are able to play and take our minds off missing home and being on

Bondsteel," said Heaton, "For most, it is as close to beach volleyball as they are going to get," he said.

"It's a chance to get out there and meet Soldiers I generally don't have contact with," said Beck. "Even though I'm a journalist and get to meet quite a few Soldiers, I have met many more through the volleyball games," she said.

The games also provide an outlet for Soldiers to network beyond the people in their unit.

"I am able to interact with Soldiers I may not see on a regular basis and get to know them and just hang out, listen to music, having a good time with them," said Heaton.

"The Soldiers like it when they have a chance to listen to music while they play," said Heaton. "Maybe having a cookout or something would get more Soldiers to come down and play," he said.

So when you get disgruntled because the Stanley Cup Finals reruns aren't being broadcast on American Forces Network, take a break from the boob tube and come down to South Town in Camp Bondsteel to watch your friends compete in a great game of sand volleyball. ★

Animals continued from page 8

ing excessively. We are smart enough to "tell" whether or not an animal is rabid, right?

Wrong. Many (most) rabid animals don't show classical signs and act normally until just before death. Did you know that you can be infected with rabies without being bitten? The virus can be left in an open wound via saliva from an infected animal. Specifically, an infected animal can transmit the rabies virus to a soldier simply by licking a cut or scratch on the soldier's hand.

And, as far as virus transfer is concerned, being scratched by a cat is the same as being bitten. In other words, if that nice kitty scratches you, your exposure risk is the same as if it had bitten you.

Regardless of what you or your buddy think or have heard or think you have heard, rabies is endemic in the Balkans just as it is in the US. The difference between the two is the overwhelming success we in the US have

had in keeping it out of our domestic pet population through vaccination, animal control and responsible pet ownership. The Kosovo Rabies Program that UNMIK manages is not as successful due to partial failure in all three areas.

Almost everyone likes animals and playing with and petting the local dogs is another way of trying to normalize life here at Bondsteel. But, life here is not normal, and we shouldn't treat it as such. After almost 15 years of treating, training, handling and playing with dogs and cats every day, it takes a conscious effort on my part to ignore the local animals, but I do it. So should you.

The list of things we can't do seems to grow and grow, but we must follow the rules to ensure good general order. This is what will get us home safe and sound after the mission is completed.

So, the next time you see a stray cat or dog, consider the risk, and do not pet it. Just walk by. ★

Parting Shots

